BENGALURU, WEDNESDAY, JUNE 4, 2025 www.Bangaloremirror.com 12 Pages PRICE ₹3

Bangalore Mirror

TEMP Max 29 | Min 20 | Humidity 68% Mostly Cloudy Sensex 80,737 | Nifty 24,542 | Gold 96,254 | Silver 1,01,250 | Dollar 85.70 | Euro 97.53 | GBP 115.86

State Pollution Board's report that claims only one out of over 4,000 industries operating across city lacks adequate facilities to process effluents has left experts flummoxed

IN LA-LA LAND, ALL LAKES ARE DOING FINE

Then what contaminated Shivapura, Chandapura, Yarandahalli lakes, Vrishabhavathi river?

| Garima Prasher
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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Over the years, multiple sources have confirmed pollution in city lakes owing to the discharge of industrial effluents. However, Karnataka State Pollution Control Board (KSPCB) begs to differ.

KSPCB's report on water pollution control status of industries in Bengaluru shows that only one out of over 4,000 industries operating across the city lacks adequate facilities. The rest are either treating their effluent through effluent treatment plants, sewage treatment plants, common effluent treatment plants, or are connected to the underground drainage system.

The only industry without an adequate treatment facility is located in the Bengaluru North zone.

City-based lake activists and experts say this just proves that agencies are hand-in-glove with industries.

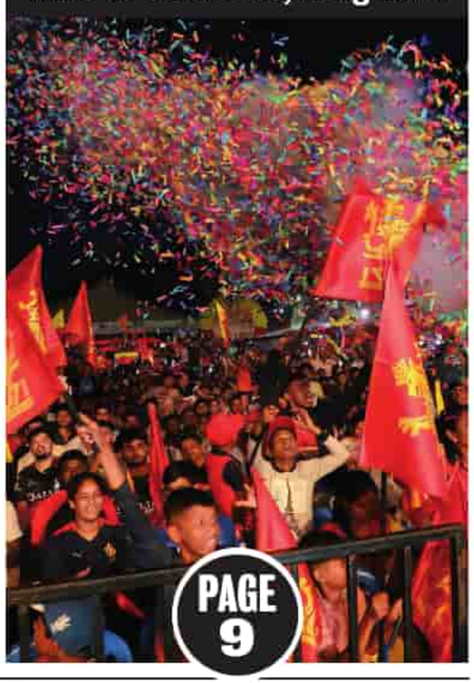
According to V Ramprasad, a city-based lake activist and founder of Friends of Lakes, Shivapura,

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8 >>

> **"The amount of chemicals in these Vrishabhavathi river, Chandapura Lake shows that industries in the catchment areas of these water bodies are discharging untreated effluent loaded with heavy metals and other chemicals**
>
> — V Ramprasad, lake activist

RCB RULES

And finally, the cup is ours. Time to celebrate, Bengaluru



PAGE 9

SAY SORRY?

Kamal Haasan's film will not release on June 5 in state as K'taka HC raps actor over comment: 'You are not a historian'

PAGE 6

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THINGS TO DO

01 Divine rhythm

'The Goddess', a classical dance performance, will be presenting three compositions that explore various aspects of different goddesses. **Where: Prestige Centre for Performing Arts, Konanakunte; When: July 21, 6 pm**

02 Remembering icons

Rishtey 6.0, a musical tribute, will be celebrating the timeless works of Salil Choudhary and RD Burman, musical maestros who left an indelible mark on Indian cinema and music. **Where: Chowdiah Memorial Hall, Malleshwaram; When: June 7, 5.45 pm**

03 Treat your taste buds

The Ritz-Carlton is organising 'The Chaat Festival', a celebration of India's beloved street delicacies, elevated through the artistry of their chefs. **Where: The Market, The Ritz-Carlton; When: May 10 to June 10**

04 Groove along

Rajesh Krishnan, will be performing live, presenting a soulful, nostalgic, and electrifying night. The iconic playback singer will be celebrating decades of Kannada musical brilliance by mesmerising the audience with timeless hits. **Where: Orion Mall, Rajajinagar; When: July 26, 6.30 pm**

05 Barrel of laughs

Zakir Khan's brand new show 'Papa Yaar' is bringing a world of laughter, love, and nostalgia, through anecdotes packed with wit, emotion, and his signature poetic flair. **Where: Good Shepherd Auditorium, Shanthala Nagar; When: July 26, 3 pm and 7 pm**

Government college students lag behind in CET rankings

Results reveal worrying trend where students following central syllabus outperformed those under state syllabus, raising concerns about teaching methods

Sridhar Vivan
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In the recently concluded Common Entrance Test (CET) for admission into government colleges across the state, students studying in government institutions have failed to secure top ranks, especially in the banking sector. Of the 891 students who ranked within the top 100 in bank-related CET results, only 30 were from government, central government, or aided colleges. The remaining 855 students belonged to private colleges.

The results reveal a worrying trend where students following the central syllabus outperformed those studying under the state syllabus. Furthermore, amongst state syllabus students, private college attendees showed better progress compared to their government college counterparts. These disparities raise serious concerns about the teaching methods of the state syllabus and the overall condition of government colleges.

State's pre-university college scenario

The state has 1,318 government pre-university (PU) colleges, admitting around 230,000 students annually. In contrast, there are 3,541 private PU colleges. Due to the lack of basic infrastructure in government colleges, fewer students enrol in them compared to private institutions.

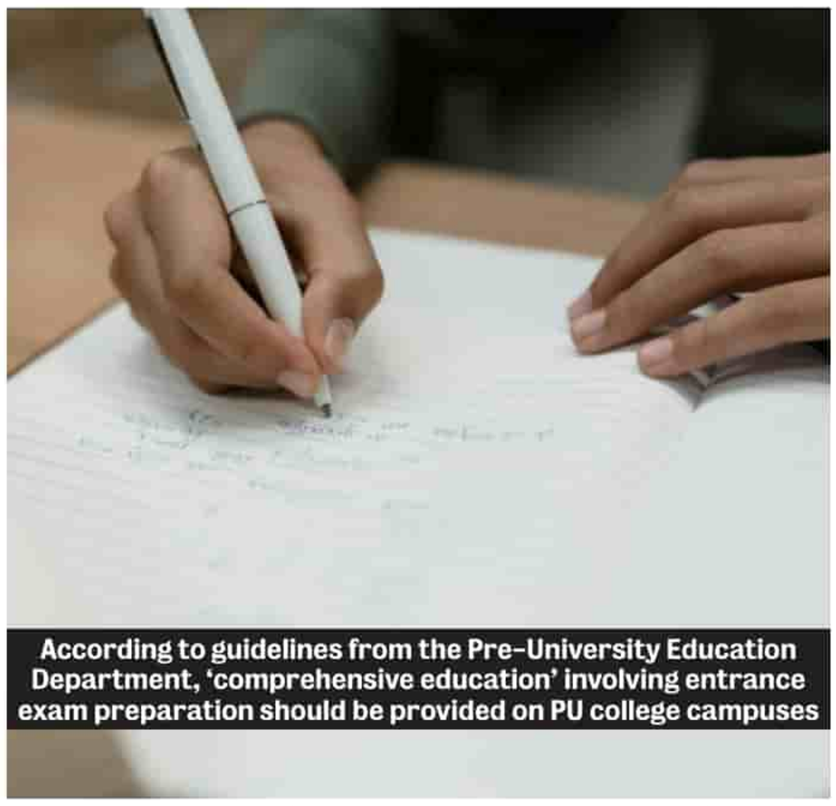
Contrast in top rankings

Within the top 100 ranks of the CET, only two students from government PU colleges secured positions in engineering streams. Amongst the top 25,000 ranks, 581 students belonged to government colleges. In specialised fields such as veterinary science, nursing, and naturopathy, only seven government college students secured ranks within the top 100.

Call for comprehensive training

PU college boards have urged that training for entrance exams should be made mandatory and regulated by law. According to guidelines from the Pre-University Education Department, 'comprehensive education' involving entrance exam preparation should be provided on PU college campuses. However, many colleges do not offer such training, which is considered illegal and subject to departmental action.

Since last year, government colleges have started providing comprehensive education specifically for science students. This practice needs to be extended to all colleges to help state syllabus students achieve better ranks in CET.



According to guidelines from the Pre-University Education Department, 'comprehensive education' involving entrance exam preparation should be provided on PU college campuses

Concern over quality of training

BR Supreeth, Secretary, Karnataka Private PU College Management Associations said that government college students, especially those following the state syllabus, do not receive adequate training to perform well in state-level entrance exams. "To address this, all PU colleges must legally implement comprehensive training. With proper coaching, state syllabus students can improve their CET ranks significantly," he said.

Government's response

"I will obtain a detailed report on how government college students have performed in CET. I will also instruct officials to enhance the effectiveness of training provided for upcoming entrance exams," said S Madhu Bangarappa, Minister for School Education and Literacy.

Government initiative for coaching

The Education Department has launched a scheme to provide coaching for Joint Entrance Examination (JEE), National Eligibility cum Entrance Test (NEET), and CET exams specifically for government college students. Last year, 26,623 students from 674 colleges benefitted from this program. Coaching classes were conducted before and after regular PU classes to maximise student participation.

₹2600 crore loan for technical education

In order to bolster technical education in the state, the government has approved a loan of Rs 2600 crore from the Asian Development Bank (ADB), said Higher Education Minister Dr MC Sudhakar. He added that officials from Asian Development Bank have already visited various technical institutions in the state for assessments, and the loan disbursement is expected to take place soon. The financial support is aimed at strengthening polytechnic and other technical colleges in Karnataka. Additionally, the minister informed that the committee led by Sukhadeo Thorat, tasked with formulating a new education policy for the state, has completed its work. The report is expected to be submitted to the Chief Minister in the second week of June, paving the way for the implementation of a new state education policy. **— BMB**

Govt approves 4,689 guest lecturers for PU colleges

The state government has issued an official order hiring 4,689 guest lecturers for government Pre-University (PU) colleges across Karnataka for the academic year 2025–26.

The Department of Pre-University Education had earlier submitted a proposal to the government requesting permission to hire 5,752 guest lecturers to address the shortage of teaching staff in PU colleges. The proposal also sought the release of funds to pay honoraria for these guest faculty members. After a detailed review of available records and subject-wise vacancies, the government has approved the hiring of 4,689 guest lecturers to fill posts across various disciplines. This decision has been formally communicated through an order issued by the Under Secretary of the department. **— BMB**

Minister Satish Jarkiholi declines honorary doctorate from KSOU

Karnataka Minister for Public Works Satish Jarkiholi has asked Karnataka State Open University (KSOU) in Mysuru to withdraw the honorary doctorate degree conferred on him in March. In a letter to the Vice Chancellor of KSOU, being circulated amongst the media persons on Tuesday, Jarkiholi said the honorary doctorate would "increase his responsibility in society" and that he would need time to live up to the expectations.

"By conferring this honorary doctorate on me, you have increased my responsibility in society. I have formulated several plans to make the programmes I have undertaken in social service successful. But I have a heavy responsibility to implement them. This will require more time," said Jarkiholi. **— BMB**

Edible oil prices to fall?

Consumers may soon experience relief in their kitchen budgets, as the prices of edible oils are expected to drop by 5–6% following the Central Government's recent decision to reduce import duties on crude edible oils. The Union Government has reduced the import duty on crude edible oils from 20% to 10%. This reduction applies to crude palm oil, crude soybean oil, and crude sunflower oil, which are amongst the most widely consumed cooking oils in the country. Market experts believe this move will directly lead to a decrease in retail prices of cooking oils, making them more affordable for consumers in the coming weeks. India imports around 50% of its annual edible oil requirement, making it one of the largest importers in the world. During the 2023–24 marketing year (November to October), the country imported 159.6 lakh tonnes of edible oil, valued at Rs 1.32 lakh crore. **— BMB**

RBI expected to cut repo rate by 100 basis points by 2025 end: Nomura

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) is expected to cut the repo rate by 100 basis points -- from 6 per cent to 5 per cent -- by the end of 2025, according to a Nomura report.

In its 'Asia H2 Outlook' report, the global brokerage noted an underperformance of both the gross domestic product growth (at 6.2 per cent compared to the RBI's projection of 6.5 per cent) and inflation (3.3 per cent compared to the RBI's target of 4 per cent).

Nomura said this is the reason why it expects the central bank to further reduce policy rates, including the repo rate.

Ahead of Friday's RBI repo rate decision, it anticipates a rate cut of 25 bps in June, August, October, and December 2025.

Nomura also sees India sticking to prudent fiscal practices. "We expect the government to stick to fiscal prudence, while monetary policy does the heavy lifting," it said in the note.

It expects the RBI to have more flexibility on the topside in foreign exchange, especially when it comes to USD/INR. "The RBI is likely to accumulate reserves on a softer US dollar, capping the Indian rupee appreciation," Nomura said.

The RBI's Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) is set to meet from June 4-6. Analysts expect the Central Bank to go for a third consecutive rate cut of 25 basis points as inflation continues to remain below the median target of 4 per cent.

The Reserve Bank has said it will continue to undertake liquidity management operations in sync with the monetary policy stance to keep system liquidity adequate to meet the productive requirements of the economy.

A benign inflation outlook and moderate growth warrant a monetary policy to be growth-supportive, while remaining watchful about the rapidly evolving global macroeconomic conditions, said the Central Bank in its '2024-25 annual report'.

Notably, the RBI MPC, in its April meeting, unanimously voted to reduce the policy repo rate by 25 bps to 6.0 per cent. **–IANS**

Average Monthly Balance: All you need to know

In a customer-friendly move, Canara Bank has announced a waiver of the Average Monthly Balance (AMB) requirement across all types of savings bank accounts, including regular savings accounts, salary accounts, and NRI savings accounts. The announcement has been made via a bank's press release. Due to no requirement of maintaining Average Monthly Balance (AMB), there are no penalty charges if AMB is not maintained in the bank account.

It is important to note that State Bank of India (SBI) since 2020 has waived off the requirement for maintaining minimum balance in all their savings accounts. Hence, there is no penalty if the minimum balance in the savings account is not maintained.

No more AMB in Canara Bank Savings Bank Account: From when is this applicable

The new rule will be applicable from June 1, 2025. "Starting June 1, 2025, no Canara Bank savings account holder will be penalized for not maintaining a minimum balance in their account. This marks a shift towards offering truly zero balance savings accounts for all customers," said the bank in the press release.

Depending on the kind of savings account, bank customers were required to maintain a minimum Average Monthly Balance in their bank account. Penalty is levied by a bank if the bank customer fails to maintain the minimum average balance requirement. Every Canara Bank savings bank account user will now benefit from no penalty on minimum balance for all savings bank accounts.

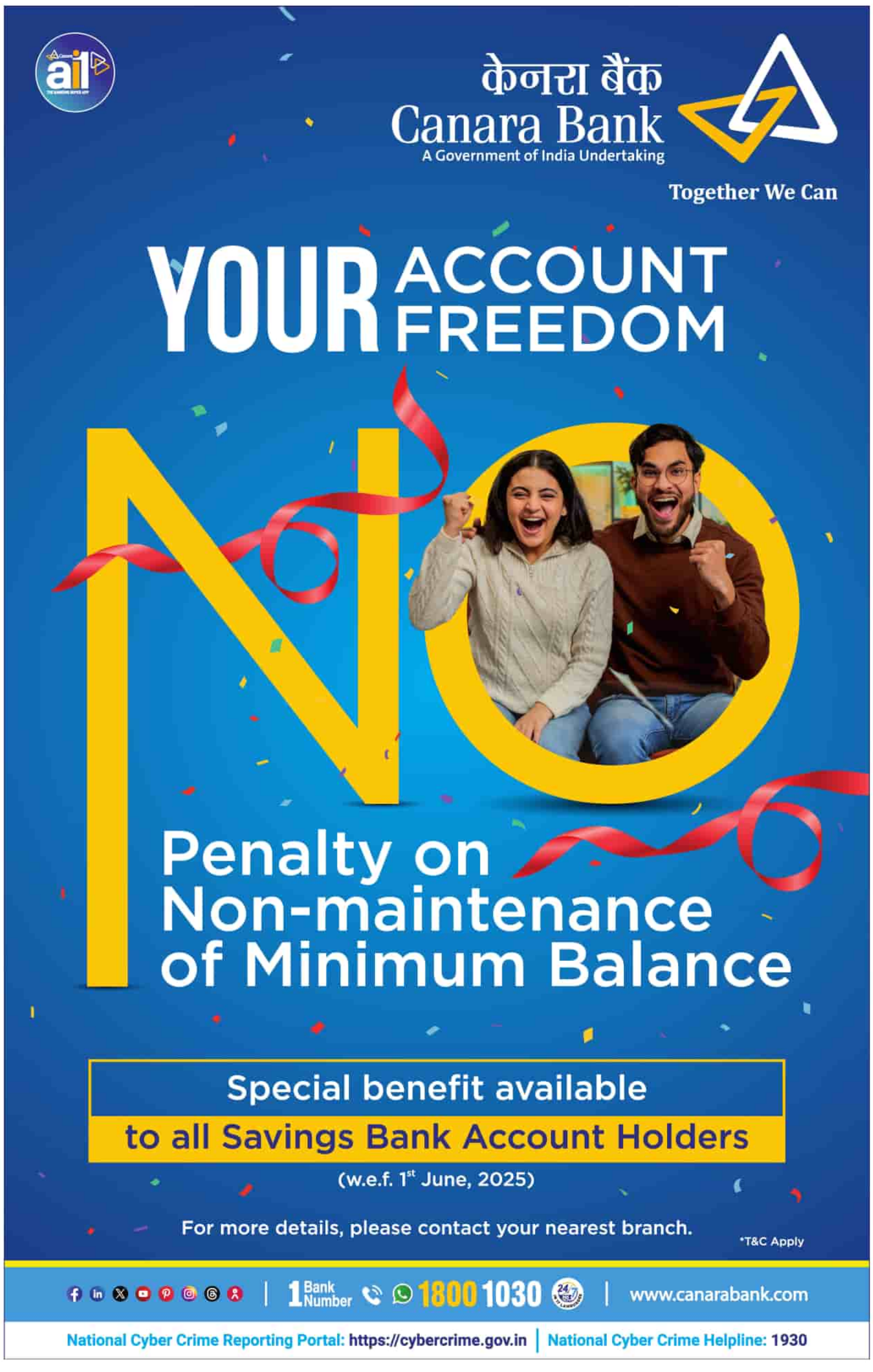
What is the minimum balance that must be maintained in Canara Bank savings account?

The Average Monthly Balance (AMB) requirement in Canara Bank varies based on the branch location. Bank customers were required to maintain an AMB of Rs 2,000 for urban and metro branches, Rs 1,000 for Semi-Urban branches, and Rs 500 for rural branches.

What is Average Monthly Balance requirement in a savings bank account?

Average Monthly Balance (AMB) is the minimum balance that must be kept in the bank account by a customer. If the bank account balance falls below the required balance, then banks levy a penalty for not maintaining AMB. The penalty depends on the type of savings account.

ET Online



BBMP stalls action on illegal building work

Despite High Court orders, builder constructs unauthorised fourth floor in MC Layout while BBMP engineers delay action, citing pending directives for months

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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

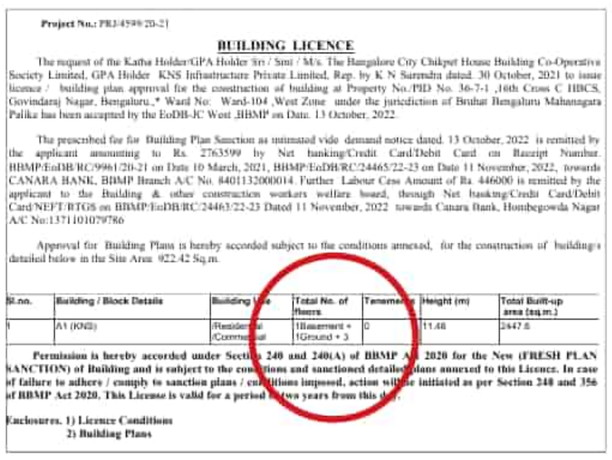
Despite directions from the High Court to the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP), the construction of buildings in violation of norms continues in the city. Recently, the High Court has ordered the demolition of a building at JP Nagar 5th Phase and also directed those costs be recovered from the BBMP engineers who failed to prevent violation of norms.

If the violation of norms by a builder on 16th Cross of MC Layout in Govindarajanagar Assembly constituency is any indication, it seems the BBMP engineers do not have the right to continue in office.

According to the documents available with Bangalore Mirror, the site (PID No. 36-7-1) on 16th Cross belongs to The Bangalore City Chickpet House Building Co-operative Society Limited and the GPA Holder is KNS Infrastructure Private Limited. The application for approval of a plan to construct the structure was submitted to the BBMP on October 30, 2021. The BBMP has collected the prescribed fee of Rs 2763599 for sanctioning the building plan. The BBMP has sanctioned a plan for constructing basement, ground plus three floors and the height of the structure should be 11.48 meters and the total built-up area should be 2447.6 sq meters.

However, the builder has allegedly violated the building plan by constructing the fourth floor without permission from the BBMP authorities. Residents and activists said the construction of the fourth floor began six months ago and the construction was stopped a few months ago. They complained that the construction work has commenced again recently. Expressing concern over blatant violation of norms, BH Veeresh, a RTI activist, said that he had already complained to the BBMP engineers about the violation of building norms but nothing has been done either to demolish the portion of the building constructed in violation of norms or stop the construction work.

(Above) The structure under construction in violation of norms; (Below) Building plan sanctioned by the BBMP



Project No.: PRJ/4599/20-21

BUILDING LICENCE

The request of the Kathe Holder/GPA Holder Sri / Smt / M/s. The Bangalore City Chikpet House Building Co-Operative Society Limited, GPA Holder KNS Infrastructure Private Limited, Rep. by K N Surendra dated 30 October, 2021 to issue licence / building plan approval for the construction of building at Property No./PID No. 36-7-1 ,16th Cross C HBCS, Govindaraj Nagar, Bengaluru.* Ward No: Ward-104 ,West Zone under the jurisdiction of Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palika has been accepted by the EoDB-JC West ,BBMP on Date. 13 October, 2022.

The prescribed fee for Building Plan Sanction as intimated vide demand notice dated. 13 October, 2022 is remitted by the applicant amounting to Rs. 2763599 by Net banking/Credit Card/Debit Card on Receipt Number. BBMP/EoDB/RC/9961/20-21 on Date 10 March, 2021, BBMP/EoDB/RC/24465/22-23 on Date 11 November, 2022, towards CANARA BANK, BBMP Branch A/C No. 8401132000014 .Further Labour Cess Amount of Rs. 446000 is remitted by the applicant to the Building & other construction workers welfare board, through Net banking/Credit Card/Debit Card/NEFT/RTGS on BBMP/EoDB/RC/24463/22-23 Dated 11 November, 2022 towards Canara Bank, Hombegowda Nagar A/C No:137101079780

Approval for Building Plans is hereby accorded subject to the conditions annexed, for the construction of building/s detailed below in the Site Area: 922.42 Sq.m.

Sl.no.	Building / Block Details	Building Use	Total No. of floors	Tenements	Height (m)	Total Built-up area (sq.m.)
1	A1 (RNB)	/Residential /Commercial	1Basement + 1Ground + 3	0	11.48	2447.6

Permission is hereby accorded under Section 248 and 248(A) of BBMP Act, 2020 for the New (FRESH PLAN SANCTION) of Building and is subject to the conditions and sanctioned detailed plans annexed to this Licence. In case of failure to adhere / comply to sanction plans / conditions imposed, action will be initiated as per Section 248 and 356 of BBMP Act 2020. This License is valid for a period of two years from this date.

Enclosures. 1) Licence Conditions
2) Building Plans

On June 3, Veeresh wrote a letter to Chief Minister Siddaramaiah highlighting the construction of the building in violation of the norms adjacent to his building situated at CHBCS Layout. "The BBMP authorities have failed to implement the court's directive on illegal constructions. It is unfortunate to see the BBMP authorities failing to take action on the illegally constructed building adjacent to your building. I appeal to you to take action against the BBMP authorities for failing to prevent the construction of buildings in violation of norms," the letter read.

> **"We have already issued a notice to the owner. We are waiting for the higher authority's directive on the future course of action on the illegally constructed building**
> – Rakesh, BBMP Assistant Engineer, Govindarajanagar Ward

Meanwhile, BBMP Assistant Engineer (Gorindarajanagar Ward) Rakesh said that a report on the illegal construction of the building has been sent to higher authorities. "We have already issued a notice to the owner. We are waiting for the higher authority's directive on the future course of action on the illegally constructed building," the assistant engineer said.

However, Veeresh said the BBMP engineers have been telling the same thing (the report has been sent to higher authorities) for the last six months. "I want the BBMP authorities to take suitable action on the builder for violating the norms," Veeresh said.

Storm drain pollution draws ₹1 lakh penalty

The BBMP has slapped a ₹1 lakh fine on the Srinivasa Classic residential complex in Sarjapur after it was found discharging sewage directly into a stormwater drain. During a site inspection on Tuesday, BBMP Chief Commissioner Maheshwar Rao directed immediate action to stop the discharge and ordered strict desilting of the drain ahead of the monsoon. Rao, who was inspecting infrastructure issues in the Mahadevapura Zone, also instructed officials to conduct a drone survey to check for encroachments and assess the condition of stormwater drains in the area.

The inspection further focused on long-pending service road development along Sarjapur Main Road. The 4.7-km stretch from Bengaluru Junction to Carmelaram RJ Tech Park was widened and asphalted in 2022, but the parallel service road remains

incomplete due to delays in land acquisition under the Transfer of Development Rights (TDR) scheme. The Chief Commissioner directed officials to fast-track the acquisition process by persuading landowners and collecting relinquishment documents. He instructed that once the land is officially transferred to the BBMP, a proper pedestrian walkway must be planned and executed. He also emphasised the need for comprehensive upgrades at key junctions — Iblur, Haralur Road, and Kasavanahalli — including installation of pedestrian crossings and a detailed area development plan.

— BMB

KSPCB tightens rules for high-rise projects

The Karnataka State Pollution Control Board (KSPCB) has issued a strict directive mandating that before granting plan approval (CC) and occupancy certificate (OC) for multi-storey residential complexes, prior approval and consent from the board must be confirmed. If these clearances are not obtained and the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) still issues CC and OC, the responsibility will rest entirely with the BBMP. Responding to a letter from BBMP seeking clarification, KSPCB's Member Secretary on May 30 outlined the rules requiring prior consent for establishment (CFE) and consent for operation (CFO) from the board before any such approvals can be issued for multi-storey buildings. Since 2015, it has been mandatory for KSPCB to verify compliance with the Water Act, Air Act, and other environmental protection laws before construction begins. This specifically applies to buildings with over 120 flats within the Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB) limits. According to sources, this rule aims to prevent construction on lake beds, stormwater canals, and sensitive ecological areas. Projects must allocate space for sewage treatment plants (STPs) and waste management units before seeking approval. Seeking KSPCB consent after construction will not be accepted. BBMP has been strongly advised to ensure prior environmental clearance before granting approvals. — BMB

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Debris delay

JP Nagar

A large tree that fell near a temple on Puttenahalli Road, JP Nagar 6th Phase, remains uncleared two weeks later by BBMP.

Water waste

Lottegollahalli

A damaged control valve near Lottegollahalli continues to leak, wasting drinking water due to BWSSB's delay in repairs; urgent action is needed.

Footpath blocked

Kammanahalli

Pedestrians face daily inconvenience as footpath encroachments along Kammanahalli Main Road force them onto the busy street.

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Death by accident: How to chalk out fair compensation

The Karnataka High Court has ruled that when determining fair compensation under the Motor Vehicles Act, all employer payments to the deceased, including perks, should be included in monthly income calculations for compensation purposes.

Justices KS Mudgal and KV Aravind, hearing an appeal by Priti Singh and others, modified the Motor Accidents Claim Tribunal's compensation from Rs 81,89,000 to Rs 2,27,32,608.

The bench stated "The Tribunal committed an error in holding that the deceased was in the probationary period and that his entire salary paid could not be considered. The Tribunal considered the income of the deceased at Rs.40,000/-, which has no legal or logical basis."

The appellants sought Rs 3 crore compensation for Santhosh Kumar Singh's death. Singh, a Technical Lead at HCL technologies, earned Rs 1,37,350 monthly. On January 29, 2019, a water tanker driving rashly struck his scooter.

The tribunal considered Rs 40,000 monthly for compensation calculation, though the deceased's post-tax salary was Rs 53,326. The total awarded was Rs 81,89,000 with 6% annual interest, including consortium, loss of estate, and funeral expenses. The claimants argued the tanker violated traffic rules by moving in the wrong direction. The deceased was 35 years old, earning Rs 1,37,350 monthly, which should be considered after tax deductions.

The insurance company contested the appeal, claiming the deceased was negligent. They noted the FIR was based on a non-eyewitness complaint and argued minimal tanker driver negligence.

Findings

Court records showed the 25-foot-wide road incident involved the scooter moving east while the tanker moved west, positioned incorrectly beyond the road's middle.

The court noted the charge sheet against the tanker driver and the insurer's failure to counter evidence. It stated "In light of these facts, the Tribunal was justified in holding that the accident occurred due to the rash and negligent driving by the driver of the water tanker."

Salary records confirmed the deceased's Rs 1,37,350 gross salary. The court cited the National Insurance Co. Ltd. vs. Pranay Sethi case, confirming that actual income less tax, including allowances, should be considered. The bench affirmed "The allowances, namely Car Allowance, Holiday Allowance, Fuel and Vehicle Maintenance, Compensatory Allowance, Engagement Performance Bonus, and Food Valet, are paid in addition to the basic salary and HRA. Pay slips for the months of November and December 2018, and January 2019, indicate that these allowances were paid consistently every month, without variation. These allowances are in lieu of employment and form part of the salary. The allowances are part of the pay package agreed upon between the deceased and the employee."

The court awarded Rs 2,27,32,608 total compensation, requiring the insurer to deposit the enhanced amount of Rs 1,45,43,608 within four weeks, maintaining the Tribunal's apportionment and investment orders.

1,408 traffic violators stopped in their tracks

Traffic West division cracks down on violators: ₹7.38 lakh in fines in 1 day

PIC FOR REPRESENTATION PURPOSE ONLY

A total of 45 cases were booked for triple riding, resulting in fines of ₹22,500

The Traffic Police of the West Division launched a special operation targeting various traffic violations, resulting in the registration of 1,408 cases and the collection of ₹7,38,700 in fines, on Monday.The crackdown aimed at curbing dangerous road behaviour such as triple riding, driving against one-way routes, violating no-entry zones, and unauthorised parking.

According to the data released, a total of 45 cases were booked for triple riding, resulting in fines of ₹22,500. Violations involving driving against one-way roads led to 114 cases and penalties amounting to ₹58,500. The most common offence was parking violations across all categories, with 240 cases registered and fines totaling ₹1,36,400. Meanwhile, 210 cases were filed for entering no-entry zones, collecting ₹1,05,500 in fines. In addition to these, 795 cases were booked under other traffic violations, contributing to a significant ₹4,16,800 in penalties.

All drivers and riders caught during the crackdown were educated about the importance of following traffic rules to ensure road safety for all. Authorities have confirmed that such special operations will continue in the coming days, reinforcing strict compliance and reducing accidents caused by reckless driving.

Teen booked for performing stunts

A 19-year-old was booked for reckless driving after he was caught performing a wheelie on a public road in broad daylight on Old Mysore Road within the limits of the Magadi Road Traffic Police Station.

As part of a special operation launched on the same day to curb dangerous driving, a team from the West Division was patrolling the area when they spotted the youth, identified as Janakiram, riding a scooter with its front wheel lifted off the ground, a stunt commonly known as wheeling. —BMB

High-speed bike crash on BGS flyover claims 2

A high-speed crash on the upper side of the BGS flyover claimed two lives and left two others seriously injured In the early hours of Tuesday. The incident occurred around 1.30 am near the Ganesh Temple when two motorcycles collided. According to police, Mani and his friend Akash were riding a bike at high speed when they lost control and crashed into an electric two-wheeler ahead of them. The impact threw both riders off the bike. Mani sustained a leg injury, while Akash suffered severe injuries to his face, head, and legs. He was later declared dead at Victoria Hospital. The electric two-wheeler was being ridden by Afzal and Qasim, who also fell due to the collision. Afzal dead, Qasim critical after the bike accident.

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Location Azim Premji School, Yadgir

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Location Azim Premji School, Kalaburagi

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No apology only dialogue, says Kamal; film screening halted

HC warns public anger may escalate, observes actor's reluctance to apologise might be driven by ego and that artistic expression can't override community sentiments

| Bangalore Mirror Bureau
mybangaloremirror@timesofindia.com

TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Actor Kamal Haasan has consented to postpone the release of his film Thug Life in Karnataka following controversy over his comments that allegedly hurt Kannada community sentiments. Appearing before the Karnataka High Court on Tuesday (June 3), Haasan clarified that he held "no malice" in making the remarks but declined to issue a formal apology. Instead, he proposed engaging in a dialogue with the Karnataka Film Chamber of Commerce (KFCC). As a result, the film, which was slated for release on June 5, will not be screened in the state for the time being.

The controversy arose from a statement made by Haasan at the audio launch of Thug Life, where he claimed that the Kannada language originated from Tamil. The remark triggered backlash across Karnataka, prompting the KFCC to call for a ban on the film's release.

During pre-lunch proceedings, Justice M Nagaprasanna commented that Haasan's statement had hurt public sentiment and verbally advised that an apology could help defuse the situation. Later, in the afternoon session, the court issued a notice on a petition filed by the film's producers and recorded the actor's consent to delay the release pending discussions with the KFCC.

"The petitioner is, for now, not willing to screen the movie in Karnataka unless he is able to hold a dialogue with the Film Chamber of Commerce," the court noted. "The learned senior counsel adds that while the KFCC demanded an apology, the letter submitted in response does not contain the word 'apology.' In light of the counsel's submission, the hearing is adjourned to June 10 at 3.30 pm." Senior advocate Dhyan Chinnappa, representing Haasan, submitted the letter addressed to the KFCC. He explained that Haasan had offered two options: to apologise or to provide a clarification reaffirming his respect for Karnataka and its language. Chinnappa insisted the actor had no malicious intent and that apologies are not obligatory in the absence of malice.

Members of Kannada Raksha Vedike stage a protest against actor Kamal Haasan (file photo)

KFCC stands firm: No apology, no release

The controversy over Kamal Haasan's remarks that "Kannada is born out of Tamil" has intensified, with the Karnataka Film Chamber of Commerce (KFCC) reiterating its demand for an apology. KFCC President M Narasimhalu, after meeting with film industry stakeholders, said Haasan's comments have upset the government and pro-Kannada organisations. "He has spoken about our language. Everyone is angry. He should apologise. Let him come and discuss," he stated. Narasimhalu clarified that no mediation or release of Thug Life in Karnataka would proceed without Haasan acknowledging the hurt caused. "We want an apology. There are rules, and this concerns four states," he said, firmly ruling out any resolution in the absence of an apology.

> **"He has spoken about our language. Everyone is angry. He should apologise. Let him come and discuss**
> – KFCC President M Narasimhalu

The court, however, remarked that Haasan's hesitation to apologise might be rooted in ego, cautioning that public anger could intensify. The bench also said the actor lacked the academic expertise to make such linguistic claims and added that while artistic expression is valued, it cannot override community sentiments. The producers' petition alleges that KFCC's decision violates their rights under Article 19(1)(g) of the Constitution.

IISc's nanozymes halt fatal clots

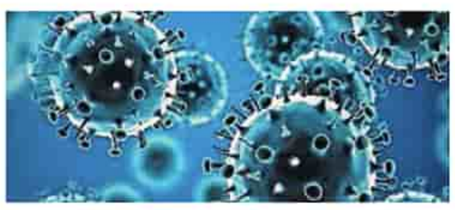
Researchers at the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) have developed a method that may stop abnormal blood clotting caused by conditions like pulmonary thromboembolism (PTE) or diseases like COVID-19.

Blood clotting is a natural defence mechanism triggered when blood vessels are injured. Platelets are activated by signals from chemicals such as collagen and thrombin, leading to the formation of protective clots. However, in diseases like PTE and COVID-19, these signals can go awry, resulting in elevated oxidative stress and an increase in toxic Reactive Oxygen Species (ROS). This causes excessive platelet activation and leads to dangerous clot formation in blood vessels.

To address this, a team led by Prof G Mugesh from the Department of Inorganic and Physical Chemistry at IISc has developed redox-active nanomaterials that mimic antioxidant enzymes. These "nanozymes" help control ROS levels, preventing the over-activation of platelets without affecting normal clotting.

The researchers synthesised nanomaterials of various sizes and shapes and tested their ability to inhibit platelet aggregation using human blood samples. They found that spherical vanadium pentoxide nanozymes were most effective, thanks to vanadium's unique surface chemistry that enables ROS reduction.

In mouse models of PTE, the nanozyme significantly reduced thrombosis and improved survival rates, with no signs of toxicity observed over five days. Unlike existing antiplatelet drugs, these nanozymes do not interfere with normal haemostasis, thus avoiding bleeding complications. Encouraged by promising results in human platelets, the team now plans to test the nanozymes for stroke prevention and move toward clinical trials. **— BMB**



Cyber safety street plays warn against growing digital dangers

| Y Maheswara Reddy
c-y.reddy@timesofindia.com

TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

The alarming rise in incidents linked to excessive mobile and internet use, such as suicides due to restricted phone access or children leaving home over denied gadgets, highlights the growing dependency of children on digital devices.

A recent study conducted in Karnataka reveals that a significant percentage of children are dependent on mobile phones, with many also facing online harassment. This troubling trend underscores the urgent need for awareness and preventive measures to protect young users from digital dangers.

In response, street plays like Kattala Jala by Nagasimha G Rao have emerged as powerful tools to raise awareness about cyber safety. These performances engage communities through relatable stories presented in an accessible format, helping audiences understand complex issues such as online exploitation. Street theatre's blend of education and entertainment is especially effective in reaching rural and semi-urban populations, where digital literacy remains limited.

The Karnataka State Commission for Protection of Child Rights, in collaboration with Child Fund India, has utilized these initiatives to reach over 1 lakh people across 80 high schools, 40 pre-university colleges, three malls, 40 villages, and 20 urban locations in Bengaluru, Anekal, and Devanahalli taluks. These efforts emphasize the dangers lurking in the digital world while promoting safe online practices among children and their communities.

Mohan Kumar, a parent from Devanahalli, highlights the impact of mobile addiction firsthand. "My son, who used to score above 70 percent, dropped to 61 percent in the 9th grade due to his addiction to mobile phones. Usually, children don't listen to their parents, but street plays and awareness programs have a positive effect," he said, stressing the importance of such initiatives.

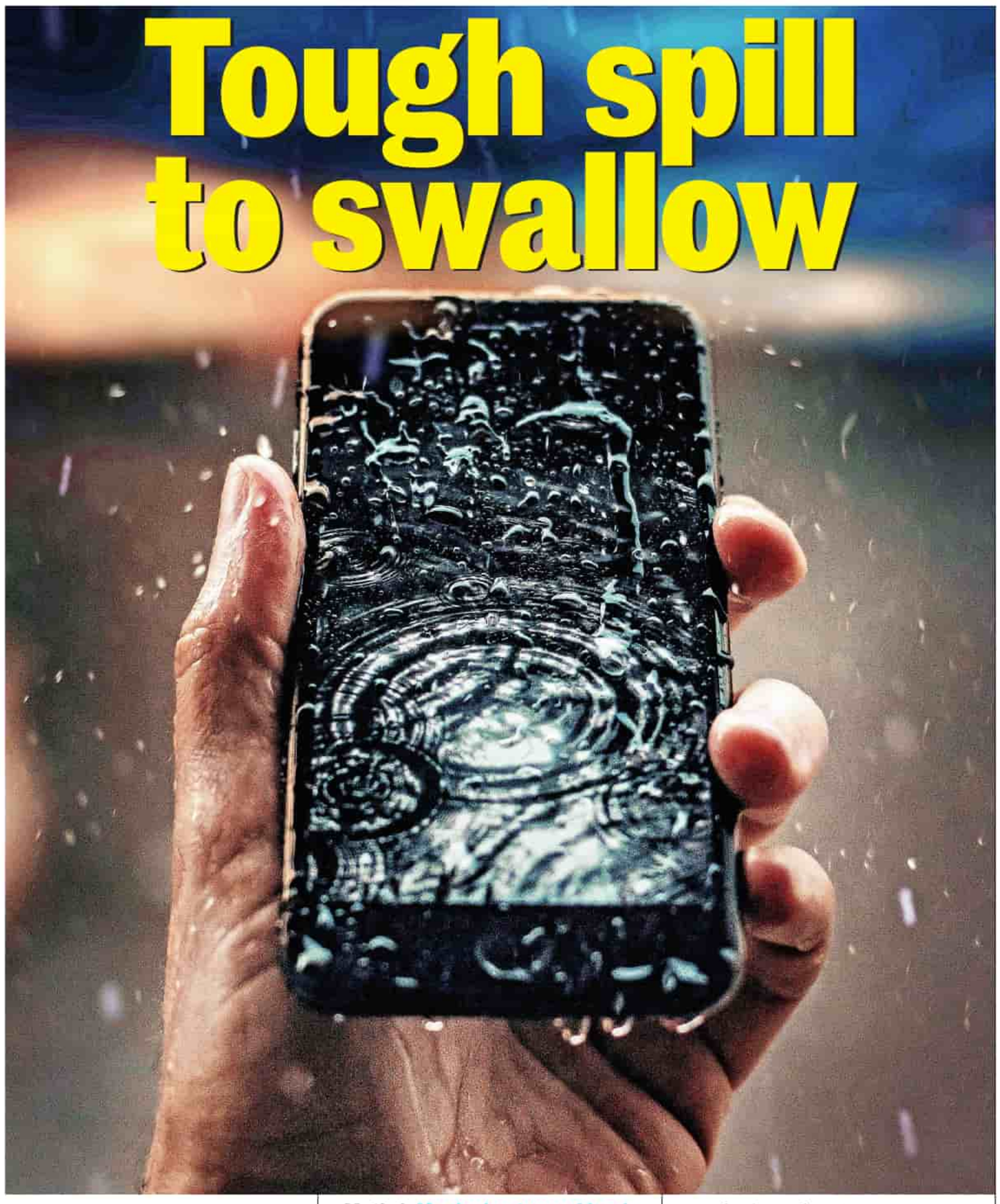
Nagasimha G Rao, a child rights advocate, points to the urgent need for cyber security education. "Children increasingly fall victim to cybercrimes like online harassment and exploitation, which demands swift action from communities and schools," he said. He added that according to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC), governments are mandated to ensure children's social security, including protection from digital threats.

Rao urged schools to integrate cyber safety into their curricula and foster open dialogues to equip students with the knowledge to navigate the internet safely. He also called on parents to actively monitor their children's online activities and guide them in recognising and reporting risks. "Through combined efforts community awareness, education, and parental vigilance we can create a safer digital environment and uphold our responsibility to protect children," he emphasised. Asha SN, Assistant Principal at Saraswathi Vidya Niketana, praised the awareness program held at the school, describing it as very useful for the students.

HEALTH TIP: When you hit the bed, turn onto your left side and sleep. This position prevents acid reflux

Vegetables like beetroots and carrots are rich in antioxidants and betalains, which support detoxification enzymes in the liver

Tough spill to swallow



Debunking 5 myths about when your devices get wet

Nearly everyone has encountered the unthinkable: Your smartphone landed in the toilet. Or you forgot to take off your smartwatch before jumping into the pool. Or maybe you meant to take those earbuds out of your pocket before running the laundry. What now?

Internet forums are chock-full of advice to dry out that drenched device, but problematic myths about liquid protection and repair make it hard for consumers to separate fact from fiction.

I'm a researcher who studies how technologies play a part in people's everyday practices and experiences. My new book, "License to Spill: Where Dry Devices Meet Liquid Lives," explores the wet-dry boundary in how people perceive and treat their electronic devices.

Here are five common myths about getting devices wet:

Myth 1: My device turned back on! It's fine

While it's a relief to see your technology rise from the dead, what you can't see are subtle processes occurring inside, like corrosion. The breakdown of your device's metal parts due to moisture often happens over time, in a period that can take place days, weeks or months after the offending incident.

That's why even humidity from moist climates or your steamy shower can make a long-term impact, despite the fact that everything booted up right away after a splash or dunk.

Myth 2: My 'waterproof' device can tolerate any kind of wetness

The term "waterproof" is a controversial one – so controversial, in fact, that the Federal Trade Commission has strict rules about using the term in advertising, once even banning it from ad copy selling wristwatches.

Given the vagueness of the term, it's better to examine different water resistance standards, such as ingress protection, or IP, ratings and MIL-SPEC, or ISO in the case of watches, and to read the fine print about what those standards actually cover.

Myth 3: My device has a great IP rating, so it's been tested under real-world conditions

Companies often advertise IP ratings as a way to entice consumers to purchase their products, but it's important to know that these ratings are based on contact with fresh water. If you're worried about Jacuzzi suds or that tipped-over can of beer, there's no guarantee that a manufacturer has tested your device in these – often sticky – situations, and an IP rating won't account for them.

Myth 4: I've got some rice in the kitchen. I can fix this myself!

It's natural to panic and seek out the quickest household solution when a spill or dunk happens, and a cup of rice is still a commonly sought-out option.

However, the rice hack doesn't work very well, and rice particles can enter the device to cause even further damage. Aside from bringing your device to a professional repairer, you're better off immediately powering down your product, removing its battery and plug if you can, and letting all the components dry over a day or two.

Myth 5: Well, this device is broken, but I've got a warranty to replace it

While you're pulling your product from its watery grave, you might find relief in the fact that it came with a warranty. Not so fast.

Most traditional consumer technology limited warranties don't cover liquid damage. These days, you usually need to purchase an add-on warranty, often called Accidental Damage from Handling. Beware, though: Even those policies may limit how many wetness "incidents" or "events" you're allowed per year.

Keeping it realistic

Water resistance features on devices like laptops, tablets, smartphones and smartwatches have recently improved, but the deck is still often stacked against consumers who must wade through the hype of advertising claims, mystifying classification systems and penalizing policies.

That's why it's critical for manufacturers to think carefully and ethically about how their products are designed, marketed and serviced. In terms of design, water resistance is no longer a niche feature meant solely for industrial workers or outdoor adventurers.

While it's unrealistic to expect a device that's designed to resist every hazard, it's also unreasonable to ask consumers to tiptoe around the products that provide them with access to critical resources and social support.

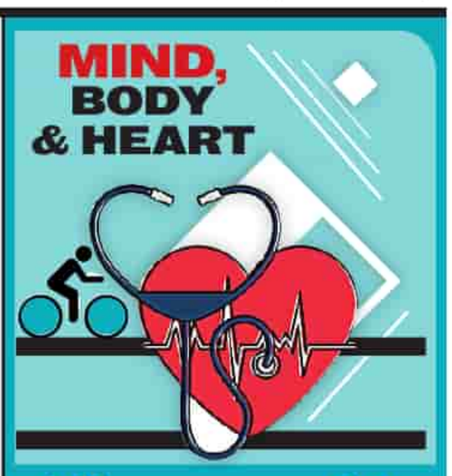
It's important for manufacturers to avoid promising consumers the Moon. Samsung Australia, for instance, paid AUD 14 million in penalties for exaggerating its phones' protection for swimming.

It's certainly fun to watch commercials with Lil Wayne spraying a smartphone with champagne or see him dunk it in a fish tank, but if manufacturers are advising against these practices, then they shouldn't be romanticising them.

Sure, it's probably common sense that your phone shouldn't take a bath in champagne. Yet life is constantly happening around – and with – our devices, from the shower and the kitchen to the gym and the beach. This means that fairer policies around repair, like those promoted by the right-to-repair movement, and warranties should stop treating consumers like they're "bad" users.

After all, we're each just one splash away from crying over spilled milk.

(By Rachel Plotnick, Indiana University, The Conversation)



All you need to know about...

Chronic back pain

Walk in the woods

If you are suffering from chronic back pain, a walk in the woods can help you better manage the condition, according to a study on Tuesday.

The study, published in The Journal of Pain, showed that being time in or around nature can provide people suffering from chronic lower back pain with a degree of escapism that helps them better manage their physical discomfort.

Nature heals

In a first-of-its-kind experiment, researchers from the University of Plymouth, UK, asked 10 people experiencing chronic lower back pain, in some cases for almost 40 years, about the role nature plays in any coping strategies they employ to help manage their condition.

They found that people who were able to get out in nature said it enabled them to connect with others on a social level, whereas they might otherwise spend the majority of their time indoors and isolated.

Distraction & more

It also provided them with a degree of distraction from their pain and a sense of escapism from their daily lives, and they enjoyed the opportunity to exercise in pleasant surroundings, preferring it to gyms or similar settings.

In addition, natural features such as fresh air and the sound and visual presence of water, the interviewees said, helped give them a feeling of tranquillity that relieved the stresses and anxieties created by their pain levels.

"Lower back pain, like many other forms of physical discomfort, can be debilitating, isolating, and exhausting. But amid a push for novel and more holistic therapies to treat chronic pain, nature has been suggested as a potential option," said lead author Alexander Smith, a researcher in the University's School of Psychology.

—IANS

Throwback to when NGT sent BBMP, KSPCB notices

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Chandapura, Byramangala, and Yarandahalli lakes, along with the Vrishabhavathi river catchment in Bengaluru, are only a few of the water bodies contaminated with industrial effluents.

"Pollution of Vrishabhavathi river catchment and Chandapura Lake in the city due to industrial effluent has also been recognised by the National Green Tribunal. The amount of chemicals in these water bodies shows that industries in the catchment areas of these water bodies are discharging untreated effluent loaded with heavy metals and other chemicals. There are many industries across the city without adequate treatment facilities. It cannot be just one," said Ramprasad.

Notably, the National Green Tribunal (NGT), in December, had sent notices to the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) and KSPCB after registering a suo motu case regarding high levels of heavy metals and toxic substances in the Arkavathi River stretch near Thippagondanahalli (TG Halli) reservoir.

This was after a water quality analysis conducted by Paani Earth, a city-based non-governmental organisation, on samples collected from multiple points of TG Halli reservoir and Dodda Mudavadi Bridge, located 10 kilometres upstream of the Arkavathi-Vrishabhavathi confluence, showed alarming levels of heavy metals and toxic substances, including mercury, the banned pesticide DDT, cancer-causing polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAH), and fluoride.

Chandapura Lake

NGT also took up the issue of Chandapura Lake pollution and had rapped KSPCB for its inaction. In an order dated October 10, 2022, the tribunal had directed the Karnataka government to pay an environmental compensation of Rs 500 crore for not maintaining the lake.

Out of this, Rs 141 crore was to be recovered from 12 industries in the catchment area of Chandapura Lake that were discharging hazardous waste into the water body.

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I Suhail Shakeel S/O Shakeel K, R/at S2, Violet Apartment, Flat No.12, Banjara Layout Main Road, Kalkere, Horamavu, Bengaluru – 560043, name of my father wrongly mentioned as Shakeel in my Passport, the actual and correct name of my father is Shakeel K (the initial expansion being Khaleel) for all purposes.

I, MUJAHID SHARIFF S/o Mahboob Shariff R/at # 3C, Samadhana Nagar Main Road, Masjid E Sahaba, Kadugondanahalli, Arabic College, Bangalore-560045. Do hereby declare MUJAHID SHARIEF to MUJAHID SHARIFF. vide Affidavit Dated 02.06.2025 Sworn Before Notary: M Rajendra, B'lore

I, Sharfunisha Khader Basha D/o Vanakar Allabash Khadar Basha R/o 5, 2nd main, 12th cross, Lachappa colony, BK Nagar, Yeshwanthpur, B'luru 560022 have changed my name to Sharfunisha Khadar Basha Affidavit Dt.03/06/2025 notary Harisha G, B'luru

I, Nasir Basha Jabbar S/o Tawakal Mohammed Abdul Jabbar R/o 580/8, 7th main, 5th cross, KN Extn, Yeshwanthpur B'luru 560022 have changed my name to Naseer Pasha Jabbar Affidavit Dt.03/06/2025 Notary Harisha G, B'luru

I, Sonal Nisha Saldanha W/O Suhas David Sequeira R/o # No- 4/2, 202, Brigade Heritage Davis Road, Holy Ghost Church, Richards Town, B'lore-560084 have changed my name to Sonal Nisha Sequeira for all purposes

I, Bijay Samanth S/o Anup Samanta R/o No.5, 8th cross, Nanjarasappa Lyt, Canara bank colony, Viajayanagar, Bengaluru 560040 have changed my name to Bijay Samanta I shall be called by this name for all purpose

I, Suhas Archie Thelma Sequeira S/O Archelius Sequeira R/o # No- 4/2, 202, Brigade Heritage Davis Road, Holy Ghost Church, Richards Town, B'lore- 560084 have changed my name to Suhas David Sequeira for all purposes

I, Mohamed Saleem S/o Mohammed Ghouse R/o #8/1,4th Floor ,2nd Main Road, Bismillah Nagar B'lore-560029 have changed my name to Mohammed Saleem.

I, Rishabh Ramachandra Nimbargi S/O Nimbargi Ramachandra R/o # 323, B Block, D S Max Swastik Paduka Mandir Road, Turahalli, B'lore- 560061 have changed my name to Rishabh Nimbargi for all purposes

I Usha D/o Bhagawan Das R/o 19,Koraluru,Hosakote Tq, VTC Koralur, PO Naduvathi, B'lore Rural -67 changed name as Usha by replacing Usha B in all records for all purposes declared before Notary.

I, Ganesha Sathigarahalli Nagaraju S/o Nagaraju , R/at #932, 2nd Cross, Hosakerehalli, BSK 3rd stage, Bengaluru 560085, have changed my name to Ganesh Sathigarahalli Nagaraju, for all purposes

I Sajjan Raj Chunilal S/o Chunilal R/o #83, 3rd Cross, 7th Main, Sriramapuram, Near Deepak Sahakari Bank B'lore-560021 have changed my name to Sajjan Raj Kothari for all purposes

I, Yusra Rawoof D/o Abdul Rawoof R/o #21, Aleem St. Panduranganagar, Bengaluru, have changed my name from Yusra to Yusra Rawoof for all future purposes.

I, Mohammed Imran, residing at 1-7-120, Station Road, Ibrahim Wadi, Raichur, Karnataka -584101, have changed my name to Md. Imran for all purposes

I, Mahesha S V S/o S M Vishwanath R/o B-58,2nd Crosss, Kalappa Block Ramachandrapuram B'lore-560021 have changed my name to Mahesh S V

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Above 2022 model, urbenia, innova crysta, innova hycross & tempo traveller
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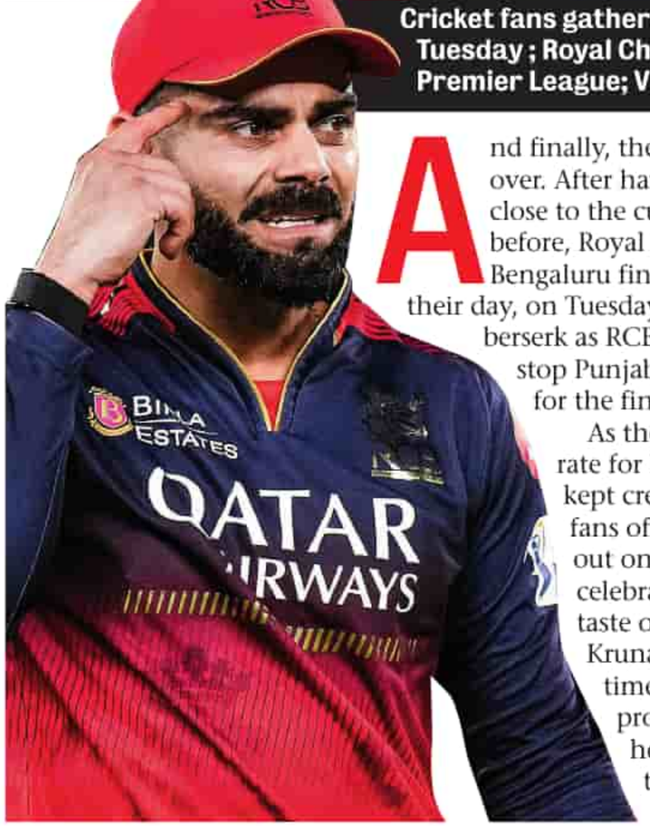
All eyes on the champs

And finally, the cup is ours



Cricket fans gathered to watch a live screening of the Final Match at BGS Playground Vijayanagar in Bengaluru on Tuesday ; Royal Challengers Bengaluru's Virat Kohli and Liam Livingstone celebrate after winning the Indian Premier League; Virat Kohli gets emotional as his team gets closer to victory

And finally, the wait was over. After having come close to the cup thrice before, Royal Challengers Bengaluru finally had their day, on Tuesday. Fans went berserk as RCB managed to stop Punjab Kings' run for the finish line.

As the asking run rate for Punjab Kings kept creeping higher, fans of RCB came out on the streets to celebrate the sweet taste of victory.

Krunal Pandya's timely strikes proved to be too hot for Punjab to handle.

Earlier, a valiant effort from RCB set a fighting 191-run target for Punjab Kings in the title clash of the 18th edition of the Indian Premier League (IPL) in Ahmedabad.

Counter-attacking knocks from Jitesh Sharma (24 from 10 deliveries) and Virat Kohli (43 from 35 balls) powered RCB to 190/9. Still, Arshdeep Singh (3/40) and Kyle Jamieson's (3/48) searing three-wicket hauls denied Bengaluru a 200-run mark. After being put to bat by Punjab, Arshdeep deployed a short-length approach ploy and Phil Salt embraced the opportunity with both hands in the opening over. He hammered the ball over the long leg and sent the ball sailing over the boundary rope for a maximum.

On the fifth delivery, Salt swivelled the ball across the line, and the ball marginally fell short of the rope and bounced away for a four. With Salt coming in and all guns blazing, Bengaluru ended with 13 runs in the opening over.

With runs flowing swiftly, Salt (16) took the aerial route in the next over against Kyle Jamieson but couldn't get the desired distance. Punjab captain Shreyas Iyer safely held the ball in his hands to draw the first blood. Bengaluru retaliated with a couple of boundaries and finished the powerplay with 55/1 on the board. Right after the powerplay, Mayank Agarwal (24) tried to take on Punjab's premier spinner, Yuzvendra Chahal but swung his bat a fraction too early. The ball soared high and lobbed down to Arshdeep in the deep.

Virat Kohli and Rajat Patidar, the former and current captains, tried to form a partnership to see off the middle overs and set the stage for the climax.

—PTI

18th Edition of IPL Marks Unforgettable Moments

As IPL 2025 concluded, it left behind a trail of historic memories — marked by patriotism, eco-consciousness, stunning performances, and heartfelt moments — making this season truly one for the ages. Along with this dream finale, IPL 2025 has etched itself in history with dramatic incidents, fairytale comebacks, and record-breaking performances — from players who scored 10 lakh-worth runs to others returning to the crease after 14 years.

Break Amid War Fears

While IPL has seen power plays and timeouts, this season witnessed an unexpected blackout. On the night of May 8, during the match between Punjab Kings and Delhi Capitals in Dharamshala, Punjab had posted 122/1 in 10.1 overs when floodlights were suddenly turned off and spectators were asked to evacuate. This wasn't a glitch. It was a precautionary response to Pakistan's missile and drone threat along India's Jammu, Punjab, and Rajasthan borders, following India's 'Operation Sindhoor'. With the nation on high alert, the BCCI decided to pause the tournament for a week. Matches resumed on May 17 once the situation stabilised.

Kohli Reigns Again

Where there's Virat Kohli, there are runs. Nicknamed the 'Run Machine', Kohli dazzled yet again, finishing in the top 5 batters with 614 runs from 14 matches at a strike rate of 146.53 (till the finals).

Sudharsan-Gill Break Partnership Record

Gujarat Titans' opening duo — Sai Sudharsan and Shubman Gill — accounted for 48% of the team's runs this season. Sudharsan emerged as the season's top scorer with 759 runs in 15 matches, while Gill followed with 650. Their 205-run unbeaten stand against Delhi Capitals on May 18 became the highest partnership in IPL history. The previous best was a 189-run unbeaten partnership between Naman Ojha and David Warner in 2012.

Dot Balls Turn into Trees

This IPL season introduced a unique green initiative by displaying plant icons instead of traditional dots for dot balls, with the BCCI committing to plant 500 saplings for each dot ball bowled during the playoffs. As of May 31, 5,186 dot balls have been bowled, translating to over 2.59 million saplings to be planted. Leading the effort, Mohammed Siraj of Gujarat bowled 151 dot balls, accounting for 75,500 saplings, followed closely by Prasidh Krishna with 146 dot balls. The trees will be planted across Kerala, Gujarat, Assam, Maharashtra, and Karnataka.

Rishabh Pant: Highest-Paid Flop?

Two years after surviving a car accident, Rishabh Pant made a much-anticipated IPL comeback, joining Lucknow Super Giants for a record ₹27 crore, becoming the costliest player in IPL history. However, his performance fell short, scoring 269 runs in 14 matches at a cost of ₹10 lakh per run. In comparison, KKR's Venkatesh Iyer, bought for ₹23.75 crore, scored 142 runs in 11 matches, costing ₹16.72 lakh per run.

Spirit of Cricket Shines

In a rare moment of sportsmanship, Ishan Kishan of Sunrisers Hyderabad walked off without any appeal during an April 23 match against Mumbai Indians. Facing Deepak Chahar, Kishan edged a delivery that went straight to wicketkeeper Ryan Rickelson. While neither the bowler nor keeper appealed, Kishan himself started walking, prompting the umpire to declare him out. The incident was widely praised for upholding the spirit of the game.

Unqualified food officers reassigned

The Health and Family Welfare Department has ordered that certain food safety officers be relieved of their current duties and sent back to their parent department due to a lack of prescribed qualifications.

According to recruitment rules laid down by the Food Safety and Drug Administration Department, Food Safety Officers must hold specific educational credentials. A recent review, however, revealed that several officers currently serving in the role do not meet these academic standards.

This raises serious concerns, especially since Food Safety Officers are responsible for filing cases in court related to unsafe or substandard food. The absence of technically qualified personnel may jeopardise legal proceedings and weaken the enforcement of food safety laws.

In response, the department issued a directive signed by the Under Secretary of the Health and Family Welfare Department stating that retaining under-qualified officers could hinder effective prosecution. The order mandates their immediate withdrawal, underlining the importance of compliance with regulatory norms for safeguarding public health.

—BMB

CCB busts tobacco racket

In a major crackdown, the Women's Protection Wing of the Central Crime Branch (CCB), Bengaluru, raided a warehouse on Kanakapura Main Road under Talaghattapura Police limits on May 31, 2025. Acting on a tip-off, the team seized banned tobacco and nicotine products worth ₹61.82 lakh. Two individuals were arrested, and a cargo truck used for transporting the items was also seized. The haul included 701 packets of tobacco, 155 bags of Ganesh 60 SGT-1 tobacco boxes, 160 Cool Lip sachets, and Swagath Pan Masala. The accused admitted to illegally possessing and selling the products. Further investigation is underway.

—BMB

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Resonance Designs

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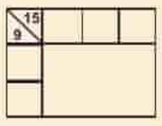
SOLVE IT IN A MINUTE

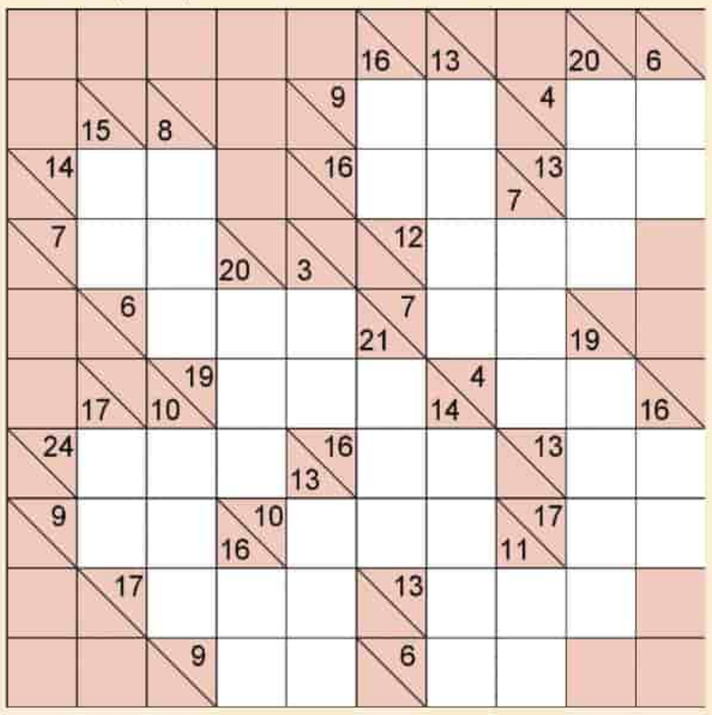
243^5 ÷ 3^4! = ?

Kakuro

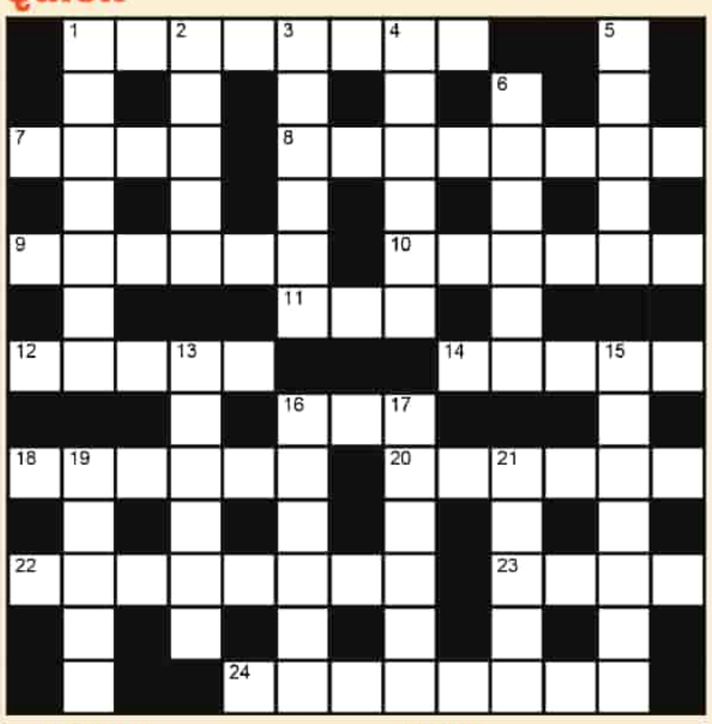
The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.



Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Quick



ACROSS

1 Shiner (5-3)
7 Swanky car (4)
8 Taken in toto, not partially (2,1,5)
9 Type of bracelet (6)
10 Young and beautiful maidens? (6)
11 Distress call (3)
12 Stitched (5)
14 Crooked; off-centre (5)
16 Greet the villain (3)
18 Fertilized egg (6)
20 From memory without thought of meaning (2,4)
22 Generosity (8)
23 Tug (4)
24 Minimal wages (8)

DOWN

1 Road home to many restaurants and pubs (7)
2 Included with (5)
3 Jacks in card decks (6)
4 Longs for (6)
5 Excessive dirt (5)
6 Motifs (6)
13 Infuriate (6)
15 Friendly understanding (7)
16 Japanese plant growing art (6)
17 Being or entity (6)
19 Florida resort (5)
21 Man-made fibre (5)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: R EQUALS N

OKKJ NJYBDX BF NPLNSF DXIENBR EK QX BORKIXJ, QAE EUNE'F RK IXNFKR RKE EK OBYX BE.

Linemaro

If you were a burger at McDonalds, you'd be McGorgeous

Mindchow

Democracy is also a religion. It is the worship of jackals by jackasses

Joke of the day

I remember when grandpa's memories started to go; it was the day I caught him urinating with the door open... which is not a huge deal, but it's annoying when I'm trying to drive

Loop

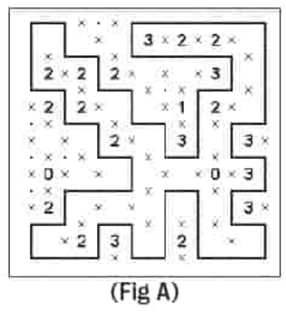
Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.

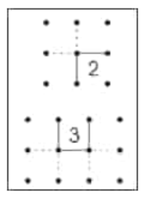
How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

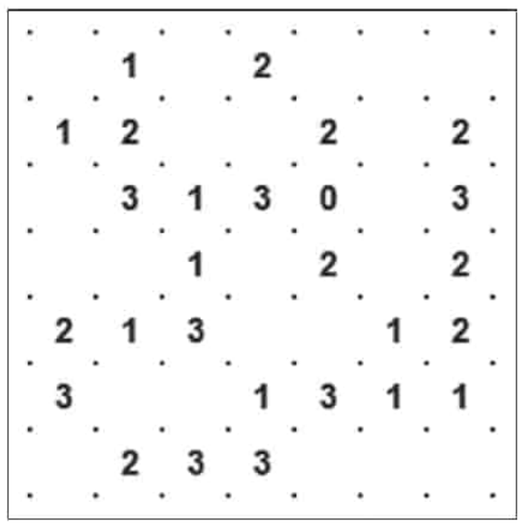
Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)



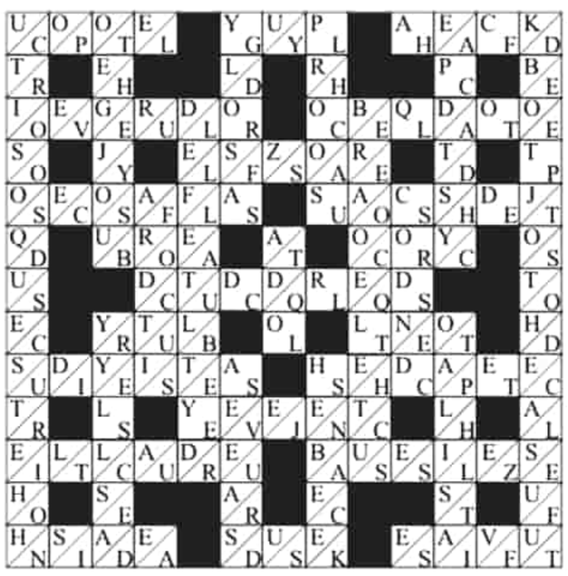
(Fig A)



(Fig B) Not Allowed



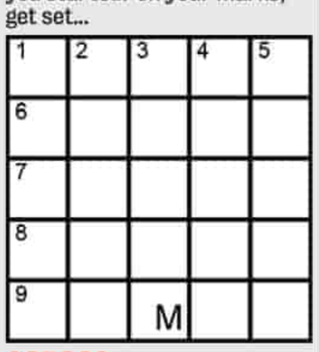
Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...



ACROSS

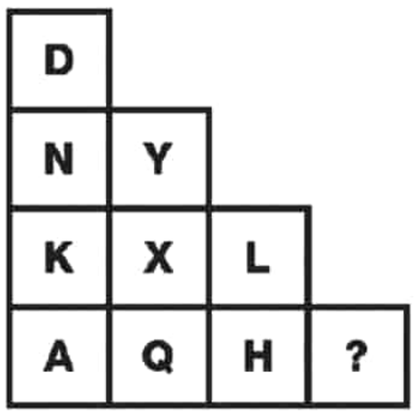
1 Petal; 6 Spaes;
7 Hards; 8 Alias;
9 Mo hic

DOWN

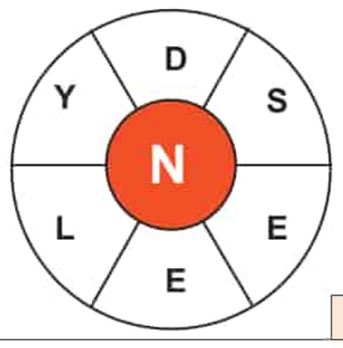
1 Solas; 2 Hap he;
3 Lamps; 4 Irate;
5 Acids

Mensapuzzle

Which letter replaces the question mark and completes the grid?



Bull's eye



How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

06 Average; 07 Good; 09 Outstanding

SudokuChallenge

			7	6			2	4
			8		9	6		
	6					9		
		5			1	2		7
		6				8		
4		7	9			1		
		9					3	
		3	6		4			
7	4			3	8			

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.

Easy = 18

3 3 6 6

Medium = 8

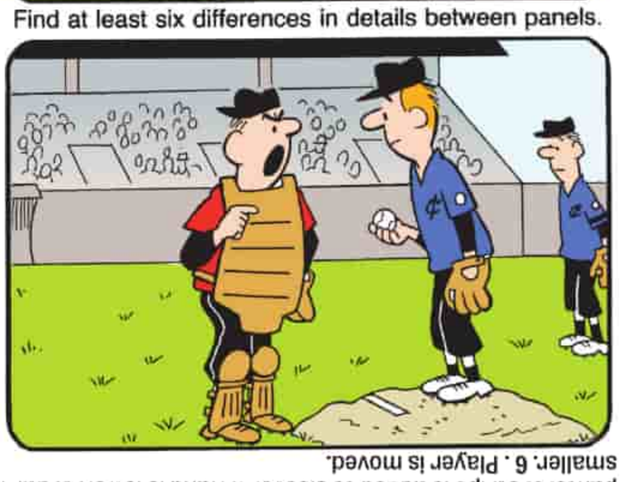
5 7 8 8

Hard = 10

1 8 9 9

Hocusfocus

Find at least six differences in details between panels.



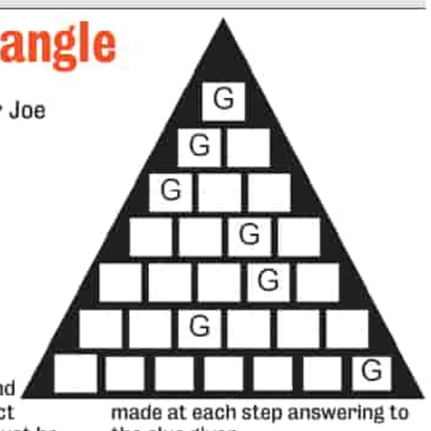
Differences: 1. Sleeve is shorter. 2. Stripe is added to pants. 3. Stripe is added to sleeve. 4. Hand is lower. 5. Ear is smaller. 6 . Player is moved.

Riddler

How could a member of the military communicate silently and without light?

Alpha triangle

1 1000 colloquially
2 American soldier Joe
3 Card game
4 Indication
5 Burn slightly
6 Consume
7 Brooding



Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

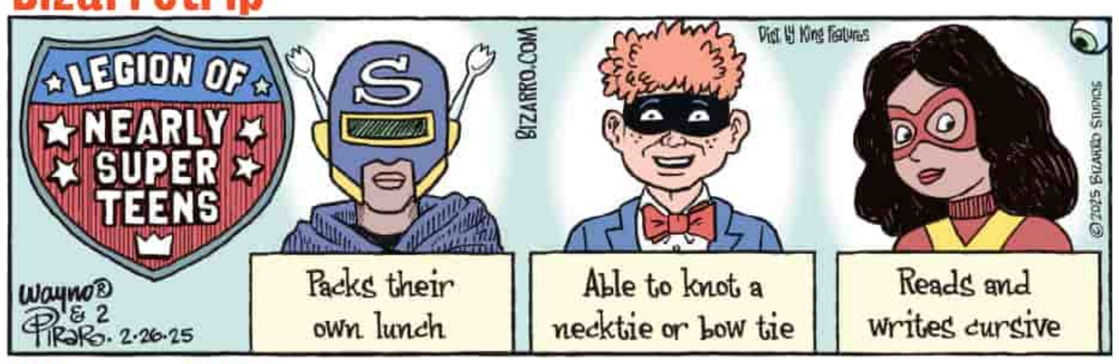
DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE »

COMICS

Popeye

I'D BETTER EXPLAIN TO OLIVE AN' WIMPY THAT I YAM INVISIBLE!
AHOY, GANG... THEY'S SUMPIN' I'D LIKE TA TELL YA!
PHOOEY!! THEY DOESN'T WANT TO LISTING!!
9-6

Bizarrotrip


LEGION OF NEARLY SUPER TEENS
BIZARRO.COM
Dist. by King Features
Packs their own lunch
Able to knot a necktie or bow tie
Reads and writes cursive
Wayno & Piraro 2-26-25

Diamond Lil

Hart of the city

PEOPLE ARE GONNA BE ABLE TO SEE THAT I HAVE A FULL PACK OF GUM WHEN I SAY, "SORRY, IT'S MY LAST PIECE."
SURE, BUT PEOPLE KNOW THAT MEANS "I DON'T LIKE SHARING."
BUT I DO LIKE SHARING.
HEART OF THE CITY © 2025 ANDREWS MCMEEL
GOCOMICS.COM/HEARTOFTHECITY

Crankshaft

BECAUSE OF THE BUS DRIVER SHORTAGE, THE BOARD IS CONSIDERING A SPLIT SCHOOL DAY.
BRINGING KIDS HOME AT MIDDAY IS PROBABLY GOING TO GET A LOT OF PUSHBACK FROM PARENTS.
I'LL SAY... THEY'LL BE PUSHING THE KIDS BACK ONTO THE BUS!
BATIUK & DAVIS tombatiuk.com/books
2-26

Mutts

WHAT YOUR STARS SAY TODAY

Aries Mar 21 – Apr 20
Today, the Moon's blessings may help you make swift decisions on the professional front. New business opportunities could come your way, boosting your confidence. You may initiate innovative ventures with your business partner, potentially leading to future growth.

Taurus Apr 21 – May 20
You're under the positive influence of the Moon today. Health improves, and chronic issues may finally be resolved. Children's well-being is also likely to be stable. Stuck funds may be recovered, allowing you to repay debts and feel more financially secure.

Gemini May 21 – Jun 21
The Moon brings peace of mind today. Your decisiveness may help you seize new opportunities without hesitation. Past efforts and good karma may support you in overcoming obstacles. Love life looks promising, and job seekers may find suitable roles with help from friends.

Cancer Jun 22 – July 23
You may feel mentally low and disconnected from responsibilities today. This detachment could lead to missed commitments and damage your reputation. Arrogance may create issues in both your personal and professional life. A lack of confidence might hinder your creativity at work.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23
You're likely to feel energetic and focused on your goals. Short work-related trips could prove beneficial. You'll achieve targets more easily, with support from your team. However, be cautious of possible disagreements with siblings.

Virgo Aug 24 – Sep 23
Today, the Moon favours you. You may plan to invest additional capital in your family business, leading to potential growth. Your social service efforts may bring recognition. Good news from family members may lift your spirits, and you'll enjoy quality time and delicious food.

Libra Sep 24 – Oct 22
A sense of happiness and good health may boost your confidence today. Your intuitive mind will help you stay clear of confusion. Your social standing may improve, and positive karma might open doors for innovative ideas or new ventures.

Scorpio Oct 23 – Nov 22
You may feel disappointed or emotionally unsettled today. Avoid arrogance and harsh speech, as it could result in conflict or loss. It's best to steer clear of long-distance travel, risky driving, or water-related areas for now.

Sagittarius Nov 23 – Dec 22
A peaceful state of mind may support your progress. Financial stability improves through increased earnings. Romantic time with your spouse may strengthen your bond, while singles might meet a promising match. Multiple opportunities may emerge at work, signalling positive life changes.

Capricorn Dec 23 – Jan 20
Today, your strong professional network may help you implement plans successfully. You could receive a significant business order through hard work. Domestic harmony improves due to better understanding with your spouse. Your efforts may also gain recognition from your boss.

Aquarius Jan 21 – Feb 19
With lunar blessings, previous challenges may now be resolved. You can resume delayed tasks and may receive rewards for your efforts. Financial gains and unexpected opportunities could arise, possibly including plans for overseas travel or expansion.

Pisces Feb 20 – Mar 20
You might not feel your best today, with health concerns affecting your work and personal life. Your spouse's well-being may also worry you. Patience will be key. Avoid new investments for now, as they may lead to losses. Students should stay grounded and focus on their studies.

KIDZONE

Nidhi, Bengaluru

Mugdha, Bengaluru

Kidzone, Bangalore Mirror, No. 74/2, Sanjana Plaza, 4th & 5th Floor, Elephant Rock Road, Jayanagar 3rd block, Bengaluru-560 011;
Please send hard copies of your artwork in A4 size only.

SOLUTIONS

SOLVE IN 1M
(3^5)^5÷3^24 = 3^25÷3^24 = 3

RIDDLER
By using braille. Braille was based on a tactile military code called night writing, developed by Charles Barbier in response to Napoleon's demand for a means for soldiers to communicate silently at night and without light. In Barbier's system, sets of 12 embossed dots encoded 36 different sounds. It proved to be too difficult for soldiers to recognize by touch and was rejected by the military.

BULL'S EYE
dense, DENSELY, deny, dyne, lend, need, needy, seen, send

FAST FIVE

L	E	P	T	A
A	P	S	E	S
S	A	L	A	I
S	H	A	R	D
O	H	M	I	C

STRIKE OUT

C	O	T	E		G	Y	P		H	A	C	K		
R		H			L		R		P		E			
O	V	E	R	D	O		O	B	L	A	T	E		
S		J		E	S	S	A	R		T		P		
S	C	O	F	F	S		S	A	C	H	E	T		
Q		B	O	A		A		C	O	Y		O		
	H		C	U	D	D	L	E	D			T		
S	I	E	S	T	A		S	E	D	A	T	E		
T		L		E	V	E	N	T		H		L		
I	L	L	U	D	E		A	S	S	I	Z	E		
O		E		R		C		T		F				
R	H			L		P		E						

QUICK

B	L	A	C	K	E	Y	E		F		I			
L	I	M	O		A	S	A	W	H	O	L	E		
G		N		V		R		E		T				
B	A	N	G	L	E		N	Y	M	P	H	S		
D				S	O	S		E						
S	E	W	E	D		A	S	K	E	W				
	N			B	O	O			N					
E	M	B	R	Y	O		B	Y	R	O	T	E		
L	A	R	G	E	S	S	E		Y	A	N	K		
M		E		A		C		O		T				
I			P	I	T	T	A	N	C	E				

MENSA PUZZLE
2. Start at the top, and work left to right in rows, top to bottom. Letters advance through the alphabet in steps of 10, 11, 12, 13 etc.

QUOTE UNCODE
Good advice is always certain to be ignored, but that's no reason not to give it.

SUDOKU

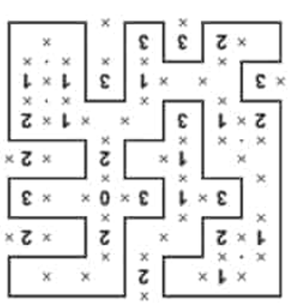
9	1	8	7	6	5	3	2	4
3	7	4	8	2	9	6	1	5
5	6	2	4	1	3	9	7	8
8	9	5	3	4	1	2	6	7
1	3	6	5	7	2	8	4	9
4	2	7	9	8	6	1	5	3
6	8	9	1	5	7	4	3	2
2	5	3	6	9	4	7	8	1
7	4	1	3	8	2	5	9	6

ALPHA TRIANGLE

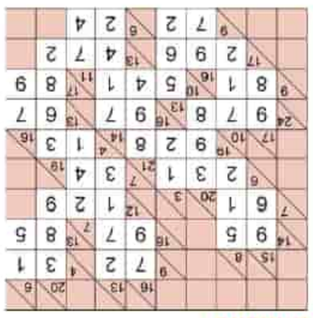
					9					
					1	8				
					7	6	5			
					3	2	4	1		
					5	6	2	4	3	
					3	7	4	8	2	9
					6	9	1	5	3	2
					4	2	7	9	8	6
					1	3	6	5	7	2
					8	9	5	3	4	1
					5	6	2	4	1	3
					3	7	4	8	2	9
					9	1	8	7	6	5

GO FIGURE
Easy
3 + 3 + 6 + 6 = 18
Medium
7 – 5 x 8 – 8 = 8
Hard
9 – 8 + 9 x 1 = 10

LOOP



KAKURO



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 # Emma Thompson to be feted
Emma Thompson to be honoured by Locarno Film Festival

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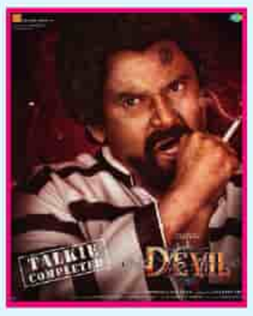
Entertainment Industry Promotion

SANDALWOOD SHOTS

Y MAHESWARA REDDY

Devil all set



Here is good news for hard core fans of Darshan. The much awaited and delayed shooting of Darshan's latest movie Devil is completed. The shooting of the movie came to a standstill when police arrested Darshan on June 11, 2024.

He was arrested while he was preparing to participate in the shooting of Devil in Mysuru. After the High Court granted bail to Darshan on December 13, 2024, the shooting commenced again. Tulu actress Rachana Rai is paired opposite Darshan while Mahesh Manjrekar makes a comeback to Sandalwood after two decades. Devil is bankrolled by J Jayamma and Saregama under the Sri Jai Maatha Combines banner.

The teaser of Devil was unveiled on February 16, and it received good feedback and response from Darshan's fans. The movie has script, screenplay and direction by Prakash Veer. It was shot in Mysuru, Hyderabad, and Rajasthan.

The dubbing of the movie will begin shortly. The team of Devil has unveiled a poster of Darshan recently.

School's story

Kannada movie Guri released in 1986 featured Dr Rajkumar and Archana in the lead. Now, another movie with the same title directed by Selvam Madappan is in the making. The audio function of the movie was held at MMB Legacy on Sunday. The movie is being bankrolled by Radhika SR and Chitralekha S under the Vishnu Durga Productions banner.

According to director Selvam Madappan, the movie is based on a real incident that took place in Kolar. "I visited Theralli Betta in Kolar a few years ago. I saw that the government school at Theralli Betta was closed and the students were playing with teachers at the nearby lake land. While discussing with them, I got some details on the closure of the school. This inspired me to write the script for this movie," said Selvam Madappan.

The director said the movie revolves around two Class 3 students who fight against the forces responsible for the closure of the government school. "It took me a lot of time to complete the shooting as it is a children's movie," he said.

Shop talk

It's been a full long journey of a year for Rhea Chakraborty and her brother Showik to launch their brand. The two recently started their clothing brand store and sit down together for an extensive chat. "We come from a middle class family, so the feeling to own a shop is surreal. Mom and dad are really proud and it shows on their faces. I live for my mom and dad to be proud and happy. I feel like they have been through enough troubles and pains in their lives... We never expected the kind of love that we received for Chapter 2 to pour in the way that it has... I never thought that I'll be a shopkeeper. Now I'm a shopkeeper on Linking Road," Rhea quips.

Point out to her that other actors would choose a word such as an entrepreneur and she quips, "Let's be real. The business is running a shop. If you run a shop and you're a good shopkeeper. There's no shame in that.."

Talking about her style, Rhea says, "I don't really think I have a personal style per se. I don't think I'm a very big fashion icon. I like comfort. So, comfort for me is the first, first, the most important thing. Because if I'm not comfortable, I'm not happy and if I'm not happy, I'm not good.". —Vinay MR Mishra, ETimes

In the presence of genius

How working with veterans like Zeenat, Majidi honed Ishaan Khatter's craft

Actor Ishaan Khatter, who was recently seen in the streaming series 'The Royals', has spoken about his learning curve while working with veterans of the craft like Zeenat Aman and the Iranian filmmaker Majid Majidi.

Ishaan made his film debut with Majidi's 'Beyond The Clouds', and has recently worked with Zeenat Aman in 'The Royals'. The actor spoke with IANS recently, and shared his experience of working with the distinguished artists. Ishaan told IANS, "I think the only way to look at it is as an opportunity to seek and learn and hopefully have some of that genius energy rub off on you and the beauty of what they do. Before I started doing any of what I do, I was an audience. Before I was an audience, I was just a human being, an observer and I think observing is probably the first step to being an artist and to being an actor".

The actor further mentioned that he has been very lucky to be able to observe some veterans at their craft making art and it has influenced who he wants to be as an artist in a "very big way".

He shared, "I was very lucky to bring it back to my first film, I was very lucky to start with someone like Majid Majidi because he really set the foundation for me as an actor and all the things that I wanted to be and all the things that I desired as an artist, he gave me the nudge in that direction and reassured me that,2 'Yes, this is your path'". "The first thing he ever told me as a performer, as an actor, as his leading man in the film was, 'I know that you want to be a great actor, but focus on becoming a good human being first and everything you want will come from there'.2 And so that's the best advice I ever received," he added.

— IANS

Daydreaming at the gym

Bollywood actress Ananya Panday took to social media to reveal what she's been daydreaming about at the gym.

Taking to Instagram, the 'Student of the Year' actress shared a series of photos and captioned it, "At the gym but day dreaming of other things." The first image shows Ananya taking a selfie at the gym, where she is seen flaunting her washboard abs. In the next shot, she looks glamorous in an off-shoulder dress. Other images feature plants arranged on a balcony, a building, sweet delicacies, an airplane, a swimming pool, and a stunning, peaceful night view of the sea.

Ananya Panday also uses Instagram to share professional updates. On June 2, she announced the release date of her upcoming film, "Tu Meri Main Tera, Main Tera Tu Meri." She posted a picture of herself and co-star Kartik Aaryan sharing a kiss behind an Indian passport. For the caption, she wrote, "Flying together… #Tu Meri Main TeraMain TeraTuMeri - in cinemas next Valentine's Day : 13th Feb, 2026."

The romantic drama "Tu Meri Main Tera, Main Tera Tu Meri" is slated to hit theatres on February 13, 2026. The film reunites Kartik Aaryan and Ananya, who last shared screen space in the 2019 hit "Pati Patni Aur Woh."

— IANS

Celibate celeb

Hollywood actress Emily Ratajkowski found that she was able to "write better" once she stopped getting intimate.

The 33-year-old actress recently went through "a period of celibacy" and claimed that the quality of her work had improved during her abstinence, reports 'Female First UK'.

She told 'Interview' magazine, "I actually just went through a period of celibacy and I had drinks with my friend. I was like, 'I've noticed that I've really been able to write better'. And he said something so beautiful like, 'Ultimately, making art or wanting sex and connection are both about seeking connection from other people, and so it makes sense that that energy would be interchangeable'".

As per 'Female First UK', she noted in response that society "mistakes" the goal of sex, and she noted that the same sort of intimacy can be found in so many different ways. She said, "I think one of the mistakes that we make as a culture is that it's a single category of experience, that there should be one thing that we all get from sex..." — IANS